

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 NEA-10 PA-01 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1525

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USIA WASHDC

/USMISSION NATO 1612

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: OVIP (JAMES P. SCHLESINGER) MARR OTRA US XG DA NATO

SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: STATE 221050

SUMMARY: EUROPEAN PRESS AND TV WILL COVER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER'S ADDRESS TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY'S PLENARY SESSION. GUIDANCE REQUESTED AS TO WHETHER SECRETARY DESIRES IN ADDITION (A) A GENERAL OPEN PRESS CONFERENCE, (B) A ONE-ON-ONE TV INTERVIEW, OR (C) NO MEETING WITH PRESS DURING THE APPROXIMATELY HALF-HOUR AVAILABLE AFTER HIS ADDRESS AND BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY

1) SECDEF'S ADDRESS AND QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FINAL PLEANARY SESSION OPEN TO THE PRESS. IT WILL BE COVERED BY FOUR OR FIVE EUROPEAN RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS AND EUROPEAN-WIDE NEWS
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SERVICES.

2) FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS AND QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD (ESTIMATE TO CONCLUDE AT APPROXIMATELY 1700 HOURS), THERE WILL BE ABOUT 30 MINUTES AVAILABLE FOR MEETING THE PRESS. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS IN BOTH NAA STAFF AND DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY RECOMMEND EITHER ONE OF FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVES (THERE IS NOT TIME FOR BOTH)

(A) A GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO WHICH ALL MEDIA REPS COVERING THE NAA WILL BE INVITED, OR,

(B) A TELEVISED INTERVIEW GIVEN TO DANISH TV WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT BE MADE AVAILABLE VIA EUROVISION NETWORK THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE.

3) TV INTERVIEWER WOULD BE OLE SIPPEL, MIDDLE EAST EXPERT ON DANISH TELEVISION WHO ALSO COVERS NATO MATTERS. WHILE HE TENDS TO BE CRITICAL OF THE U.S., HE IS ONE OF DANISH TV'S MOST NOTED COMMENTATORS. SIPPEL DECLINES TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE, BUT WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT INTERVIEW TO GENERAL THEMES OR DISCUSSION AREAS. HE SUGGESTS: (A) GENERAL PROBLEMS FACING NATO AS SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SEES THEM; (B) WORLDWIDE DEFENSE POLICIES OF THE U.S. (ANY MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS PRESENTED WOULD BE PART OF THIS RUBRIC AND BE LIMITED TO THE CONTEXT OF PREVIOUS SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS ON ME POLICY.); (C) STATUS OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK (PORTUGAL, GREECE, TURKEY); (D) FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS BASED ON SCHLESINGER'S ADDRESS TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY.

4) BOTH GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE AND ONE-ON-ONE TV INTERVIEW WOULD BE ARRANGED AT CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE, SITE OF NAAMEETING.

5) GUIDANCE REQUESTED. THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN DENMARK WILL STIMULATE HEAVY PRESS INTEREST HERE HE WILL BE THE FIRST CABINET MEMBER TO VISIT DENMARK SINCE SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS ATTENDED NATO MINISTERIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING IN JUNE 1973, EXCEPT FOR AIRPORT STOPS. ALTHOUGH A GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD PROVIDE WIDER LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE AND WOULD BE HIGHLY PLEASING TO COPENHAGEN PRESS CORPS, THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE NUANCEJ EXCHANGE AND WOULD GIVE FAR WIDER COVERAGE THROUGHOUT DENMARK AND EUROPE VIA REBROADCASTS ON EURO-VISION. REQUEST GUIDANCE ASAP REGARDING SECRETARY SCHELESINGER'S PREFERENCE.

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